

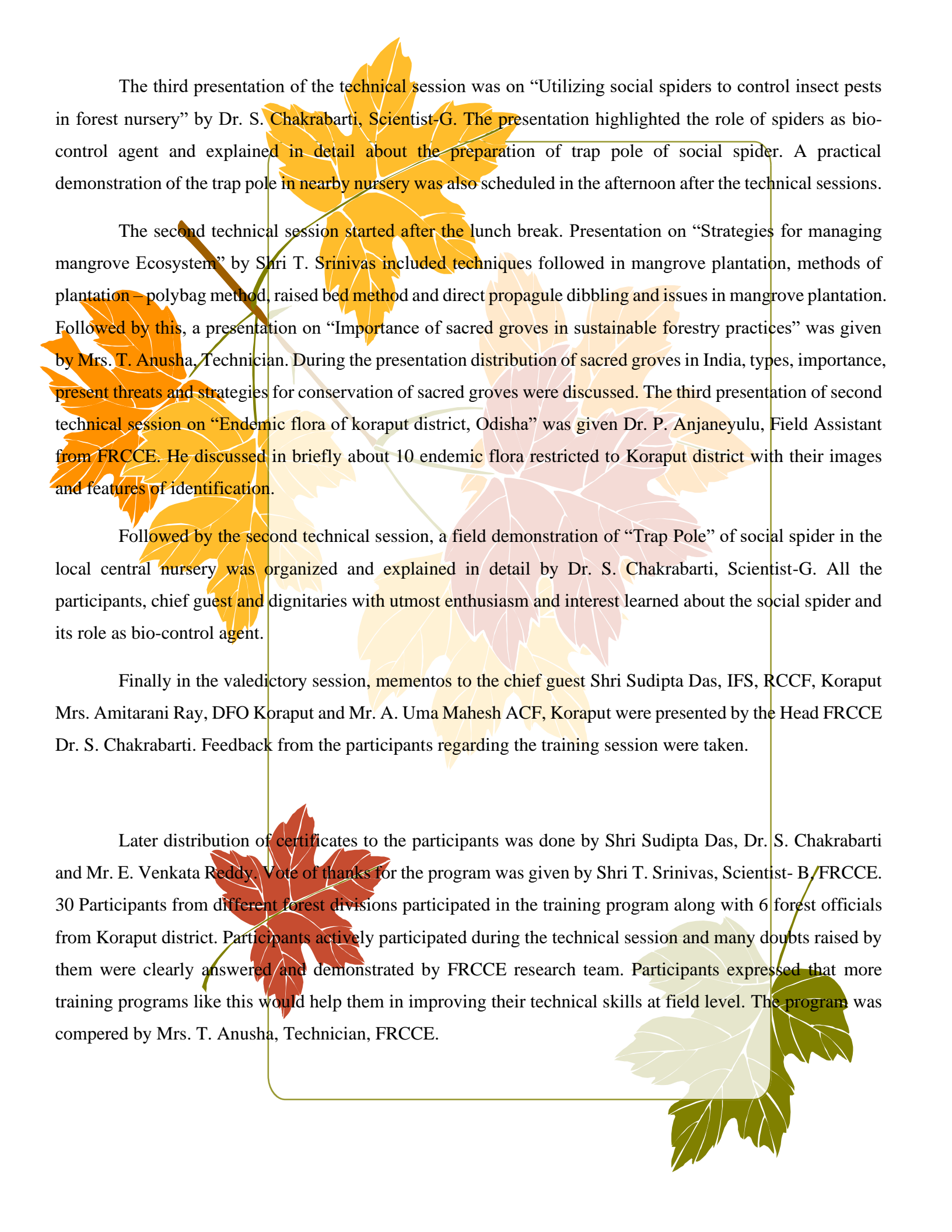
A REPORT ON TRAINING UNDER VVK PROGRAMME HELD AT KORAPUT, ODISHA

Forest Research Center for Coastal Ecosystem (FRCCE) organized a training program under Van Vignan Kendra (VVK) on March 3, 2022 at Conference Hall of Crime Control Cell at the Office-Campus of RCCF, Koraput. The training was funded by Institute of Forest Biodiversity (IFB), Hyderabad. The theme of the training was “Sustainable Forestry and Tree Improvement”. The programme got underway by lightening of lamp by the chief guest of the program Shri Sudipta Das, IFS, RCCF, Koraput. Subsequently by Mrs. Amitarani Ray, DFO Koraput, Dr. S. Chakrabarti, Scientist-G, Head FRCCE, Mr. E. Venkata Reddy, IFS, Head, Extension, IFB, and Dr. Swapnendu Pattanaik, Scientist –F, IFB.

Lightening of lamp was followed by the welcome address of Dr. S. Chakrabarti, Scientist-G delivered to the dignitaries and the participants. An inaugural address by chief guest commenced immediately and the concept of sustainable forestry, the decrease in forest cover in Koraput circle, issues of shifting cultivation and fire, involvement of local communities for sustainable forest management were discussed. Then a keynote address by DFO, Koraput Mrs. Amitarani Ray was given to the participants regarding the diversity of flora in Koraput district and the need to know better about them and their conservation.

After a small tea break and group photo session, the technical session commenced with first presentation on “Criteria and indicators for sustainable forest Management” by Mr E. Venkata Reddy. The presentation focused on origin of sustainability concept, aim of sustainable forest management criteria and indicators. He also explained about the criteria developed by ITTO and Indian criteria. Health of the forest ecosystem, their resilience, forest certification for sustainable forest management and status of forest certification given by NCCF were also discussed during presentation.

The second presentation was on “Productivity Improvement in Forest Trees by Harnessing Knowledge on Plant Genetics, Silviculture and Biotechnology” by Dr. Swapnendu Pattanaik. Successful tree improvement programmes of *Tectona grandis*, *Casuarina* spp. and *Eucalyptus* spp. in India were discussed. Activities undertaken in tree improvement programs - base population, selected population, breeding population, genetic testing and propagation population were also explained in detail. Doubts raised by the participants were cleared during the presentation.



The third presentation of the technical session was on “Utilizing social spiders to control insect pests in forest nursery” by Dr. S. Chakrabarti, Scientist-G. The presentation highlighted the role of spiders as bio-control agent and explained in detail about the preparation of trap pole of social spider. A practical demonstration of the trap pole in nearby nursery was also scheduled in the afternoon after the technical sessions.

The second technical session started after the lunch break. Presentation on “Strategies for managing mangrove Ecosystem” by Shri T. Srinivas included techniques followed in mangrove plantation, methods of plantation – polybag method, raised bed method and direct propagule dibbling and issues in mangrove plantation. Followed by this, a presentation on “Importance of sacred groves in sustainable forestry practices” was given by Mrs. T. Anusha, Technician. During the presentation distribution of sacred groves in India, types, importance, present threats and strategies for conservation of sacred groves were discussed. The third presentation of second technical session on “Endemic flora of koraput district, Odisha” was given Dr. P. Anjaneyulu, Field Assistant from FRCCE. He discussed in briefly about 10 endemic flora restricted to Koraput district with their images and features of identification.

Followed by the second technical session, a field demonstration of “Trap Pole” of social spider in the local central nursery was organized and explained in detail by Dr. S. Chakrabarti, Scientist-G. All the participants, chief guest and dignitaries with utmost enthusiasm and interest learned about the social spider and its role as bio-control agent.

Finally in the valedictory session, mementos to the chief guest Shri Sudipta Das, IFS, RCCF, Koraput Mrs. Amitarani Ray, DFO Koraput and Mr. A. Uma Mahesh ACF, Koraput were presented by the Head FRCCE Dr. S. Chakrabarti. Feedback from the participants regarding the training session were taken.

Later distribution of certificates to the participants was done by Shri Sudipta Das, Dr. S. Chakrabarti and Mr. E. Venkata Reddy. Vote of thanks for the program was given by Shri T. Srinivas, Scientist- B/ FRCCE. 30 Participants from different forest divisions participated in the training program along with 6 forest officials from Koraput district. Participants actively participated during the technical session and many doubts raised by them were clearly answered and demonstrated by FRCCE research team. Participants expressed that more training programs like this would help them in improving their technical skills at field level. The program was compered by Mrs. T. Anusha, Technician, FRCCE.

GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT



